MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
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Volume 137, Number 38

Thursday, January 18, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 32°F | 25°F Sunny

FRI: 32°F | 21°F Mostly Sunny

SAT: 45°F | 29°F Partly Cloudy

ANNE TRAFTON/MIT NEWS OFFICE

Francisco Rodriguez spoke at a Dec. 22 press conference following his release from a five-month detainment by ICE.

MIT janitor Francisco Rodriguez released from ICE detainment

Rodriguez free pending appeal to reopen asylum case

By Sharon Chao
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT custodian Francisco Rodriguez was released from detainment by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Dec. 22 after being held for five months.

In early December, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver granted a request from Rodriguez's legal team to put his deportation on hold, pending a decision on his appeal to reopen his asylum case. This decision will likely not be made until the latter half of 2018, John Bennett, a member of Rodriguez's legal team, said in a phone interview with *The Tech*.

"We are presenting some new facts as part of the motion to reopen the case," Bennett said."We are arguing that these new facts will subject Rodriguez to violence if he returns to El Salvador." Bennett said he could not elaborate on what these "new facts" were due to concerns for Rodriguez's safety.

The most important factor in determining whether people qualify for asylum status is whether they have a legitimate fear of violence if they return to their home country, according to Bennett.

Rodriguez left his home country of El Salvador in 2006 after his coworker was murdered by a gang, according to a Boston Herald article. He was denied asylum status in 2009, but he was granted yearly stays of removal and permits that authorized him to work in the U.S. For the past five years, he worked as a custodian at MIT.

In July 2017, Rodriguez's request to renew his stay of removal was denied, and he was ordered to check in with ICE July 13 with a plane ticket back to El Salvador, according to previous Tech coverage.

"We were never provided with an explanation as to why his request was denied. Generally speaking, immigration laws have been enforced more rigorously in some respects with the new administration," Bennett said.

Despite purchasing a plane ticket, Rodriguez was taken into federal custody for failing "to make timely arrangements for his departure," according to a statement from ICE. Rodriguez's ticket was for a date after the expected birthdate of his son in late July. Matt Cameron, another member of his legal team, told *The Tech* in a previous phone call that ICE had never indicated the departure had to fall within a certain time frame.

Rodriguez's detainment caused public outcry from the MIT community and his labor union, 32BJ

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Faculty committee reviews progress on climate action

Report warns against lofty goals

By Mark Goldman

In October 2015, President L. Rafael Reif announced the Climate Action Plan (CAP), outlining steps for MIT to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, devise ways to adapt to climate change, and engage with outside groups. Reif established a review committee for the CAP in October 2017. This month, the committee released a report on the successes and challenges in implementing the CAP over the past two years.

The CAP intends to "produce a roadmap of the coordinated ... approaches it will take to best protect the world from exceeding the guardrail temperature rise of 2°C." But this is not a feasible goal, the report said. "We should resist setting unrealistic goals for our work and expecting blockbuster results."

The report also emphasized the need for MIT to recognize "that it has an extremely limited number of faculty members" who can and are willing to address climate change issues. This gap is partially due to domain-centered perspectives encouraged by departmental hiring and tenure processes.

"MIT's faculty hiring and tenure decisions strongly affect its capability to address climate change," the report said. In particular, MIT has lost expertise in areas related to transportation, and it currently lacks expertise in analyzing the economics of low carbon technology, the report continued.

The report noted the similarities in the missions of the Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) and MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI), saying that "significant overlap can be confusing to sponsors." However, the report commended MITEI's fundraising successes in finding funding for a study on the future of ground transportation as well as five of the eight low carbon centers it was assigned to create.

The report also praised some of the programs created by ESI, including the launch of an Environment and Sustainability minor in September 2017. These programs fall under the education component of the CAP, which seeks to improve MIT's

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IN SHORT

Students must pre-register for spring subjects by 5 p.m. today or face an $85 late fee.

Students must select preferences for spring CI-H/CI-HW subjects by 5 p.m. today.

Students can submit CPW events by Mar. 1 or register to host an admitted student by Mar. 23 at community.mitcpw.org**.**

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

Trader Joe's may close due to redevelopment, Mayor McGovern says

Kimco Realty Corporate Comm. Director denies formalized plans for redevelopment

By Zoe Anderson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Trader Joe's on Memorial Drive, one of the closest grocery stores to campus, may close due to property redevelopment at some point in the future, Cambridge Mayor Marc McGovern wrote in an email to *The Tech*. Kimco Realty, which owns the mall Trader Joe's is located in, plans to redevelop the space into a mixed-use housing and residential area, McGovern wrote.

"From what I am hearing they will have to leave. I do not know when exactly that would be," McGovern wrote. "My information came from community sources who said that the site was being redeveloped."

Kimco's website also states that the Memorial Plaza property "offers an incredible opportunity to potentially redevelop within a very limited market of primary Greater Boston."

However, Jennifer Maisch, Director of Corporate Communications at Kimco, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that "there are no plans

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Endowment excise tax to cost MIT $10 million a year, Pres. Reif says

Reif: 'Basically, the government's giving us a budget cut,' Institute must decide which programs to reduce spending for

By Jessica Shi
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which was signed into law Dec. 22, contains a 1.4 percent excise tax on investment returns that will cost MIT around $10 million a year, President L. Rafael Reif wrote in a letter to the MIT community sent Dec. 20.

The tax will apply to private colleges and universities with at least 500 students and an endowment amounting to more than $500,000 per student. Around 30 institutions nationwide fall into this category, according to Reif.

"This is the first time that Congress has taxed university endowments, and the first time it has targeted a tax at specific universities," Reif wrote. "It will reduce MIT's ability to undertake exactly the kind of activities that Congress wants us to pursue — extensive financial aid for students, innovative education, pioneering research."

Reif also spoke about the excise tax in an interview for Bloomberg TV taped Dec. 21.

"Basically, the government's giving us a budget cut," Reif said. "I think, unfortunately, we just will have to do $10 million less of things. So where, what do we want to cut?" (No decisions on which programs would absorb the most impact had been made at the time.)

Israel Ruiz, executive vice president and treasurer, and Maria Zuber, vice president for research, discussed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in an interview with MIT News Dec. 20.

"It's important to understand that MIT's endowment is not a bank account that we can simply tap as we need money: Such an approach would be a bit like raiding your retirement savings to buy groceries or pay your rent," Ruiz said.

Instead, MIT relies on investment income, which accounted for 31 percent of MIT's total campus revenues during the last fiscal year, Ruiz continued.

Ruiz and Zuber also raised concerns on other potential effects of

Endowment, Page 3

PUZZLED

Hunt brings hundreds to campus MLK weekend. **NEWS, p. 3**

THE DANGERS OF ROOMMATES

Falling off the top bunk, smashing your face in the pool, getting slapped by your cat. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6**

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE?

Yes, but that comes second to playwriting. **ARTS, p. 5**

MUSIC > PODCASTS

One of our editors discusses her listening habits. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6**

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WEATHER

Cold winter continues in the Northeast

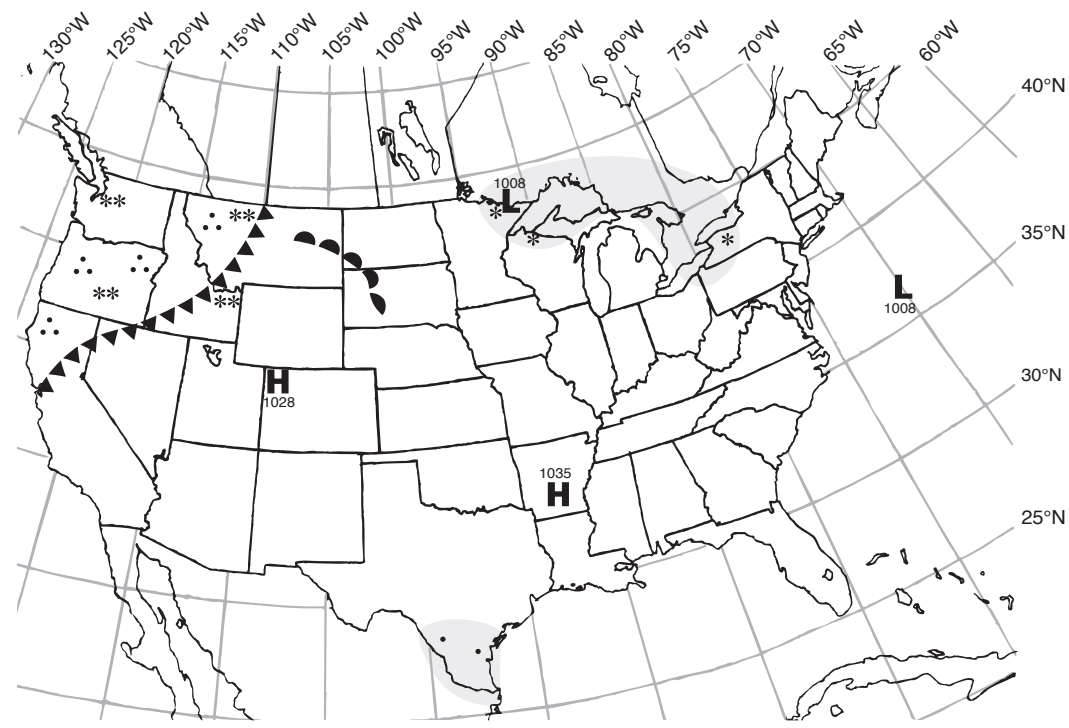
By Sarah Weidman

The Northeast has been experiencing a roller-coaster of weather this winter, beginning with record-breaking colds and enormous snowfall in late December and early January, followed by balmy days and rain. Over the weekend, warm weather caused destructive ice jams and flooding throughout the Northeast and Canada. The ice jams were caused by rapid warming and fragmentation of ice building up on the frozen rivers. The temperature is expected to rise again this weekend after the snow and bitter cold earlier in the week, bringing the possibility of another warm rainstorm this coming week.

The cold and precipitous winter in the Eastern United States has been contrasted by a warm and dry December and early January in the West. Even in the Rocky Mountains, temperatures have consistently been warmer than average with little to no snowfall. If this trend continues, Western states will be at a high risk of drought this coming year due to low snowmelt. If there is any word that could be used to describe this winter, it would be unusual.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High around 32 °F (0 °C). West winds at 5-10 mph.
Tonight: Clear. Low around 25 °F (-4 °C). West winds at 5-10 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny. High around 32 °F (0 °C) and low around 21 °F (-6 °C). West winds at around 5 mph.
Saturday: Partly Cloudy. High around 45 °F (7 °C) and low around 29 °F (-2 °C).
Sunday: Mostly Sunny. High around 44 °F (7 °C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, January 18, 2018

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	✻ ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	✻	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	✻✻	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

FEATURE

MIT chef talks food, family, and feeding students

Chef Brian Dagnall shares his passion for fresh, simple, ethnic food — and tips for students cooking for themselves

By Whitney Zhang
STAFF REPORTER

Brian Dagnall is the Director of Culinary Operations for MIT Dining. He has worked with Bon Appetit for 16 years. This interview has been condensed and edited for length and clarity.

***The Tech*: How did you start cultivating your love of food?**

Dagnall: I grew up in kind of a weird family; my grandmother was straight from Italy. My father's side of the family was England-Scotland area so weekend dinners – suppers, as we called it – were pretty extravagant. I worked a lot with my grandmother in the kitchen at a young age and it catapulted after that into a passion for food. I took a liking to those big dinners and how everyone was always happy and healthy; brought everybody together.

> **"So that's probably where my passion lies now as a chef, is more or less taking a culture and manipulating the food and making it true."**

***The Tech*: Does that kind of family influence still come up in your cooking?**

Dagnall: Not as much, actually. I have a really deep passion for ethnic food — not Americanized ethnic food, like traditional ethnic food. So that's probably where my passion lies now as a chef, is more or less taking a culture and manipulating the food and making it true. I've had the luxury of studying with some great chefs, Indian chefs, Korean chefs. I'm very passionate about food being simple and how it's supposed to be.

***The Tech*: Do you have a favorite dish?**

Dagnall: No, not really. I'm a New Englander, so I love chowder. But as far as a favorite dish, I'm just very passionate about Indian and Asian food in general. So, no, I couldn't say I'm passionate about one particular dish, if I'm being honest.

***The Tech*: Speaking of those chefs that you've worked with, are there any chefs in particular that you look up to, and why?**

Dagnall: I went to a vocational high school, so I studied under a master chef named Paul Amaral, who actually trained Emeril Lagasse, a big television chef. At a young age I learned a lot from him – how to break fish down, just anything in general. He passed away years ago, but he was a huge factor in why I've been so successful in my career. So to this day I still look up to him.

***The Tech*: What were you doing before getting into higher education dining?**

Dagnall: I started out in the restaurant business, traveled up and down the eastern seaboard. I did some training in Napa Valley, in the Culinary Institute of America. I spent a lot of time down South. I did a lot of high volume fine dining restaurants in New Orleans. When I was 30 I decided that the restaurant life was not for me; I wanted to have kids and just settle down. I was online one day and I saw an ad for Bon Appetit management company and I just really liked how they did fresh food, dealing with local farmers, so I went, "Oh, let me give this a shot," and the rest is history.

***The Tech*: What does a typical day look like for you?**

Dagnall: I live in Watertown, so I hop the bus every morning, around 4:30. I always start at Maseeh because it's three meals a day here. I check in with the morning staff, make sure all the orders are coming in, all the products properly stored. I'll probably do anywhere from 7.2 to 9 miles walking around this side of campus, checking in on food quality and sanitation issues, and dealing with staff and catering events.

***The Tech*: What are some of the major challenges you have to face and how do you deal with those challenges?**

Dagnall: The major challenge is to do better than your last meal. If you're not on top of things and keeping the menu rotation fresh, students will get tired of it. So we try to change everything up. We write all our menus based on seasonality and we keep the menus fresh and current. We try to mix in a lot of ethnic foods, just keeping it fresh and simple basically.

> **"I love food, so everyday I wake up, I roll out of bed, and I'm doing what I love."**

***The Tech*: What are some of the things you've learned throughout your career in higher education dining?**

Dagnall: I've matured a lot in this business in dealing with clients. In the restaurant world you never dealt with clients, just customers. Now I'm dealing with deans, presidents, housemasters, professors, students, so the communication piece is huge. I need to be on top of things and know what I'm talking about.

***The Tech*: What's your favorite part about your job?**

Dagnall: I love food, so everyday I wake up, I roll out of bed, and I'm doing what I love. There's weeks that I'm tired, obviously, and some weeks that I'm taxed: commencement, beginning of the school year. But, I love what I do and I can't really see myself doing anything else.

***The Tech*: From your time working here do you have a favorite memory?**

Dagnall: I like to see students happy. There's a student that's from the South. I remember putting out crawfish one day and he was just blown away that while he was in Massachusetts he would see a typical Southern dish. That all rolls back to staying fresh and staying current.

***The Tech*: How do you ensure a fresh, safe food supply, especially when there are food poisoning outbreaks?**

Dagnall: We have strict guidelines in place for who we can order from, and local farmers go through stringent applications. About 20% of our purchases are local. Food poisoning, haven't really had to deal with that here. In the 16 years that I've been around, there's been scares. I'm a certified proctor and instructor for ServSafe®, so I know the proper protocol for food poisoning – what to ask and what to rule out things that are said. After people eat, the first thing they think is food poisoning from what they ate, but the intoxication time is anything from 6 to 8 hours, so if you ate something in the dining hall, and 30 minutes later felt sick it's not really from the dining hall. It could be something you ate prior to that. So it's just being educated on that stuff.

***The Tech*: What do you do with the food at the end of the day that's not eaten?**

Dagnall: We freeze in cubes and work with Food for Free, which is in Cambridge, and package these meals and give them to the homeless. We try to compost any student food waste, which is pretty huge on this campus. When you look at food waste in general, the majority of it comes from students taking too much and then just dumping it. We try to compost all that food as well.

I'm very passionate about the homeless and the needy families and anyone who doesn't have the means to eat a healthy meal. A lot of children in the US are starving and I think we overlook that and whatever I can do to help other people, we try to do it here.

***The Tech*: What are the systems for student feedback? How often do you get student feedback? How do you respond to student feedback?**

Dagnall: There's two ways actually. All the houses have a comment card board. The biggest comment cards we get on this campus is cereal varieties. We try to accomodate everybody. There's also an online portal where you can make a submission. It actually goes to my email instantly. We'll respond right away. We tend to have a lot of suggestions from students at the beginning of the school year. A lot from parents as well.

***The Tech*: Right now is IAP and a lot of students are just starting to cook for themselves for the first time. Do you have any advice for students who are just starting to cook?**

Dagnall: Cook something that you're passionate about eating. Grab a cookbook and try to replicate the recipes. Food is not like baking. Baking is more like a science. You can put too much mushrooms into a pasta dish and it's okay. Just play around. I just like to get in the kitchen and mess around and adjust and take notes. Go in the dining halls, take a look and see what we do. We try to prepare a lot of dishes that you're going to see in the restaurant. We try to use this as a learning tool for students as well; we're not just feeding students here.

***The Tech*: Do you have any advice for more experienced cooks?**

Dagnall: Travel, eat out a lot. I spend a lot of time in markets. Especially if you want to learn about ethnic food, go to an Indian market, walk around. There's ton of stuff you can see and learn about the cultures. Same thing with Asian food. I've spent a ton of time in Chinatown.

> **"Cook something that you're passionate about eating. Grab a cookbook and try to replicate the recipes."**

***The Tech*: What do you like doing outside of your job?**

Dagnall: I'm a huge vinyl record collector. I listen to a lot of jazz music and blues and different music. I go to a lot of rock concerts. I'm 47; I guess I should probably stop at some point. I live in one of the greatest sporting cities in the US. I'm at the Garden watching the Celtics. I like watching the Red Sox. I go to restaurants, go to farms, source new ingredients for this place. I'm always road tripping on the weekends, checking out farms, seeing what farmers are growing, what we can use here. I'm also a family guy so I do a lot with my children on the weekend as well.

Around 200 MIT faculty members raised over $30,000 for janitor Rodriguez's family

Rodriguez, from Page 1

SEIU (Service Employees International Union). The Office of the General Counsel at MIT secured the law firm Goodwin Procter to join his legal team pro bono.

"[The Counsel] cannot advise individuals because we represent the Institute, but we try to help and provide general guidance on issues that we want to support, such as when one of our community members is in danger of being deported," Vice President and General Counsel Mark DiVincenzo said in a phone interview with *The Tech*. "It was a senior leadership decision to offer support to Rodriguez."

Professors Susan Silbey, Thomas Kochan, and Phillip Sharp sent an email to all faculty Aug. 17 asking for donations to an online "GoFundMe" fundraiser to support Rodriguez's family. About 200 faculty members contributed over $30,000 in total, according to an article that Kochan wrote that will be published in the January/February faculty newsletter.

"The motto 'One MIT' means that we value all members of our community. One way of doing this is by showing support for a colleague during difficult times," Kochan said in a phone interview with *The Tech*.

Rodriguez's union also held rallies in Boston Common, outside the State House, and in front of the Student Center, as well as a birthday party for him while he was in prison. "Many people think that the union's responsibility is to figure out issues that deal with people's jobs and make sure that people are represented at work. We definitely do that, but we are also political workers with regards to issues that impact our members," Amity Paye, 32BJ SEIU's northeast regional communications manager, said in a phone interview with *The Tech*.

Meanwhile at home, Rodriguez had the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with his family and finally meet his infant son after missing his birth.

Paye said, "Francisco's case is a call to action. If a community stands up for its members, we can really protect each other."

Fossil Free MIT member: 'It remains unclear what has happened as a result of CAP'

Climate, from Page 1

sustainability curriculum.

"ESI is also leading an effort to infuse a range of GIRs with content on climate and environment, starting with 8.01, Physics I," the report said. For graduate students, ESI is working to expand the Martin Family Society of Fellows for Sustainability and has started a "modest" summer research grant program for SHASS doctoral students.

Regarding outreach by MIT, the report encouraged clarification of the CAP goals with regards to "engagement" and "working with industry and government leaders," emphasizing the value of being impartial and warning against advocating for particular solutions to climate problems.

Another major component of the CAP is MIT's plans to make changes both on and off campus to reduce emissions, including through the creation of a photovoltaic plant in North Carolina, which will get MIT halfway to its goal of a 32% reduction in emissions by 2030. The CAP mentioned testing end user pricing at MIT to better understand what methods most effectively reduce emissions. However, the report said that this would be "very contentious" and encouraged research and communication about potential effects without actual price changes, instead.

Jennifer Lauv '18 wrote a statement to *The Tech* from her perspective as a member of Fossil Free MIT. "The CAP review ... misses critically important actions that MIT should take to address climate change: directly countering disinformation and climate denial," Lauv wrote. "We strongly disagree with the CAP review's assertion that it is a 'mistake' to try to 'change the values or views of individuals or organizations with other interests,' when those values and views - specifically, the willful misrepresentation of facts and denial of scientific consensus - are explicitly opposed to the mission of MIT."

"The CAP made clear that the MIT administration's alternative to divestment was a plan of 'engagement with industry and government.' Two years later, the review suggests that no such plan exists," Lauv continued, referencing the report's recommendation to "clarify the intent of 'engagement.'"

"Apart from the Summit Farms solar array (which, as revealed in the CAP review, is a revenue-positive endeavor for MIT), it remains unclear what has happened as a result of the CAP that would not have otherwise happened anyway," Lauv wrote.

The full report is available at climateaction.mit.edu/reports. Comments on the report can be sent to climateactionreview@mit.edu.

Trader Joe's corporate media office could not be reached for comment on store closure

Trader Joe's, from Page 1

for Trader Joe's to close" and that "'there are no formalized plans [for the redevelopment of Memorial Plaza] at this time."

The manager of Trader Joe's told *The Tech* in a phone call that while he could not offer comment in an official capacity, the store was unaware of any impending closure.

The Tech tried to call Trader Joe's corporate media department several times, but was unable to make contact.

McGovern mentioned the possibility of Trader Joe's closing at the Cambridge City Council meeting Jan. 8.

Tax code changes may disincentivize charitable donations, hurting MIT

Endowment, from Page 1

the law. Changes to the tax code may reduce the incentive to make charitable donations. (In fiscal year 2016, MIT raised $163.7 million in individual gifts and pledge payments.) The costs of the tax cuts in general may also lead to cuts to federal support of higher education and research in the long-term.

"Last fiscal year, nearly half of MIT's revenues — 49 percent — came in the form of grants and other funding in support of MIT's research enterprise (including Lincoln Lab). Close to 80 percent of this funding came from the federal government. So future belt-tightening by the federal government, if the nation's debt continues to mount, could exert significant financial pressure on the Institute in the years ahead," Zuber said.

Reif also noted in his letter that the act did not include a provision to add tuition waivers to graduate students' taxable income, which had been in the House version, but not the Senate's.

Many MIT students voiced their opposition to this provision, including through op-ed pieces and participation in GSC-organized phone banks to elected officials.

"While our students enjoy the relief of this moment, I hope they will also accept our admiring congratulations; this good outcome resulted in no small part from the persistent advocacy of our graduate students and their peers across the country," Reif wrote.

Setec Astronomy wins Mystery Hunt

Hunt was unique for allowing teams to choose order of rounds

By Tu-Lan Vu-Han
STAFF REPORTER

MIT's annual Mystery Hunt, one of the oldest and most complex puzzle hunts in the world, took place over the Martin Luther King Jr. long weekend, from Jan. 12 to Jan. 15.

Teams varying in size from five to up to 200 members raced to solve all the puzzles that ultimately led to a special object hidden somewhere on campus. This year, the team Setec Astronomy found the coin on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 4:21 p.m. thereby winning the competition.

Mystery Hunt is designed and run by the previous year's winning team so that no team wins two consecutive years. The team Life and Order(formerly known as Death and Mayhem) wrote this year's hunt.

Setec Astronomy, which also won Mystery Hunt two years ago, will write next year's hunt.

The structure of the hunt was based on the Islands of Personality in the movie *Inside Out*. Participants solved puzzles and meta-puzzles across the virtual Pokémon Island, Games Island, Sci-Fi Island, and Hacking Island.

The overall theme, introduced at the kick-off, was "Health and Safety." Teams were equipped with a "First Aid Kit" containing items to unlock before encountering the "6 Paragons of Safety," where hunt participants were to learn about "Common Hazards."

This year's Mystery Hunt allowed teams to choose the order of the puzzle rounds they unlocked, something that no organising team has done since 2004, according to Dan Katz, a member of Setec Astronomy, in his Jan. 16 blog post.

Life and Order's headquarters, which answered questions from the teams,were busy from the start until the end. "We were answering phone calls for the puzzle until 10 a.m. today," James Douberley, representative of Life and Order, said in the wrap-up event Monday.

Mystery Hunt began in 1981, when it was created by Brad Schaefer '78 while he was earning his PhD at MIT.

The 2018 Mystery Hunt was sponsored by Stripe, Google Cloud Platform, Garment District and the MIT Undergraduate Association.

Puzzles and solutions to this year's hunt can be found at www.head-hunters.org.

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Eliza is a 10x ninja rockstar full-stack neurolinguistic hacker coding deep recurrent neural nets in Javascript and using them to build actionable insights on big data in the cloud.

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ARTS ARTS ARTS

THE PLUS PLUS

What do podcasts and journaling have in common?

Well, music supersedes both for me...

By Karleigh Moore
EDITOR

I want to be the kind of person who listens to podcasts, but I like music too much.

I can't study or do other tasks that require my full attention while listening to music. This means that the only quality time I get with my tunes is while I'm commuting or running errands. Don't get me wrong — I love journalism. I read a lot of news, and when I listen to podcasts, I enjoy them. But for some reason, my love for NPR and FiveThirtyEight doesn't tear me away from my folk and indie alternative playlists.

Maybe it's because individual songs are shorter than most podcast episodes. Or maybe it's frustration — I know I can read the news faster than I can listen to it. If anyone has suggestions on how I could mix more podcasts into my life, I'd love to hear them! But my commutes are, regrettably, off limits.

I'd also like to be the kind of person who keeps a journal. But every time I try, I keep it up for a few days and then get bored of it, leaving another nearly empty notebook on my shelf to be filled later with pset-related scribbles and to-do lists instead of personal thoughts.

I've realized that music comes into play here too, though. While I can't capture the nitty-gritty details of my day-to-day life with a playlist, I think that playlists do a good job of recording the vibe of a special day, a particular month, or an all-too-long semester.

If you visit my Spotify profile (please don't actually go to mine), you'll see playlists with titles like "Nov2016" and "9/15/17." I usually make a playlist for each month. I add some favorites, in addition to new songs I discover that month (mad props to Spotify's Discover Weekly and YouTube's recommendations — those are some A+ algorithms at work). I also make playlists for special occasions. For example, I made a playlist to listen to as I walked to the first day of my internship last summer, complete with plenty of feel-good songs to cancel out first-day nerves.

(FYI, there is a student discount on Spotify Premium — a play-on-demand service that removes ads — that has made my life much better.)

At the end of the day, I guess it's a matter of priorities. I've loved listening to, singing along with, writing, and playing music for as long as I can remember — certainly before I cared about the following world news and keeping records of my personal life. Perhaps music is a part of myself that will always come before my other interests.

BY THE NUMBERS

17 incidents I shared with my roommate

Shenanigans from our first semester at MIT

By Tafsia Shikdar

College is a lot of work, and as clumsy students know, classes aren't where the struggle ends. As a British freshman living away from home for the first time, I was lucky enough to find a great roommate to struggle through the first semester with. Here is a list I've compiled of 17 memorable experiences we shared this term.

1. I fell off my top bunk and rebounded off my wardrobe door, thereby cracking it, and rolled over into my roomie's bedpost.
2. We went paintballing with a frat during Rush. 10/10 would recommend! However, if you are not wearing knee-pads, do not pretend you are Lara Croft and skid on your knees, unless you prefer your body without skin.
3. Roomie lost Egyptian Ratscrew (a card slapping game) and sulked for an hour.
4. I asked roomie to pass me an eraser in a very British way, and she explained to me that asking for a "rubber" in the U.S. was asking for a condom.
5. Roomie invited me to Ultimate Frisbee "because it's a chill practice today," but practice was actually serious, so I just awkwardly sat on the sidelines since I wasn't part of the team.
6. I offered to make roomie a birthday cake, and everything went wrong — the second layer broke in half, the icing was runny and time was running out. However, we salvaged it in the end! Pro-tip: when your cake breaks, just stick it back together with icing and pretend the visible cake crumbles are part of the "cookies and cream" effect.
7. Roomie and I tried going to the gym but were intimidated by the crowd of people there, so we walked back out because we are both bad influences on each other.
8. We went to the mountains of New Hampshire for a Random Hall hiking trip over Veteran's Day weekend, and I got whacked in the eye with a branch (I'm fine, thanks for the concern).
9. I introduced roomie to Primark (a popular British clothing store; there's one at Downtown Crossing). She described it as "a cheaper, less hipster Forever 21."
10. We adopted a cat — our baby, Mercury.
11. Our cat slapped roomie when roomie threatened her with a spray bottle.
12. We left our cat behind when a fire alarm went off because she wouldn't get in her new carrier (she's fine, it was a drill!).
13. We went to the vet for a $1 checkup and ended up with a bill for $120 antibiotics.
14. I ate carrot cake that the cat had licked, and roomie only told me after.
15. Roomie invited me to The Tech (she's staff) for dinner, and we ended up addicted to Overcooked. We have now racked up many hours on The Tech's PS4 (please help).
16. We ran against each other for secretary of Random Hall. (No one else ran. She won. I'm not bitter.)
17. We went swimming so I could teach roomie to pass the swim test, but I ended up smashing my face into the pool tiles because I forgot we were in the training pool, rather than the deep one. Try explaining to someone that the floor gave you a black eye.

All in all, we had a *very* eventful first semester and great bonding experiences. Shout-out to Ivana, my wonderful roommate! (She made me say that...)

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Earth

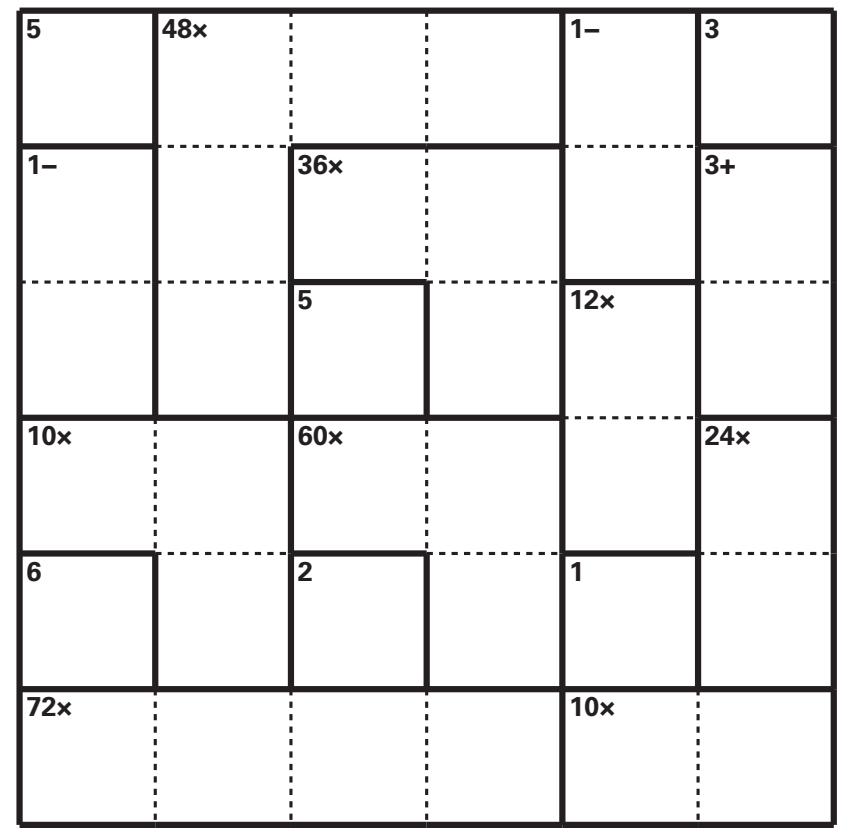
Solution, page 8

			8					
9				2	4			5
	5	6	3			2		
6	9		2					4
4	3			5			2	9
1					9		8	3
		4			6	1	5	
7			5	1				2
					2			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Luna

Solution, page 8



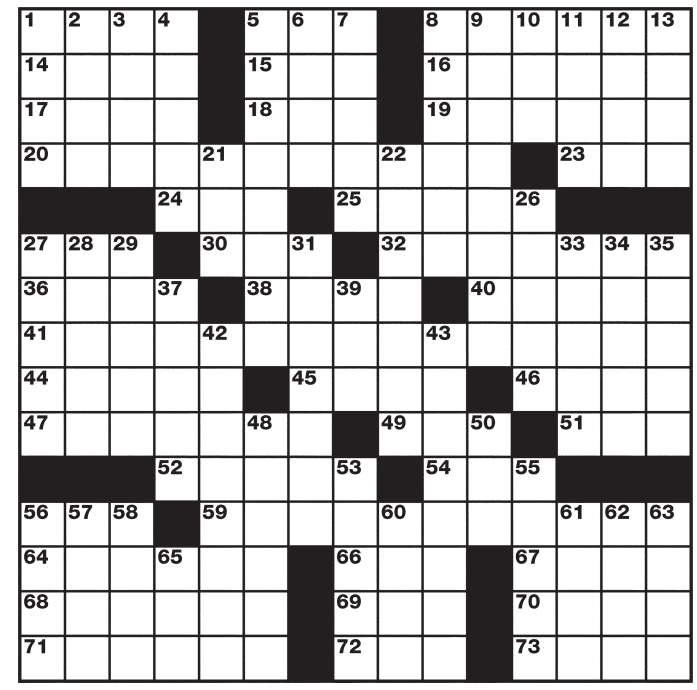
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Watts New? by Mark McClain

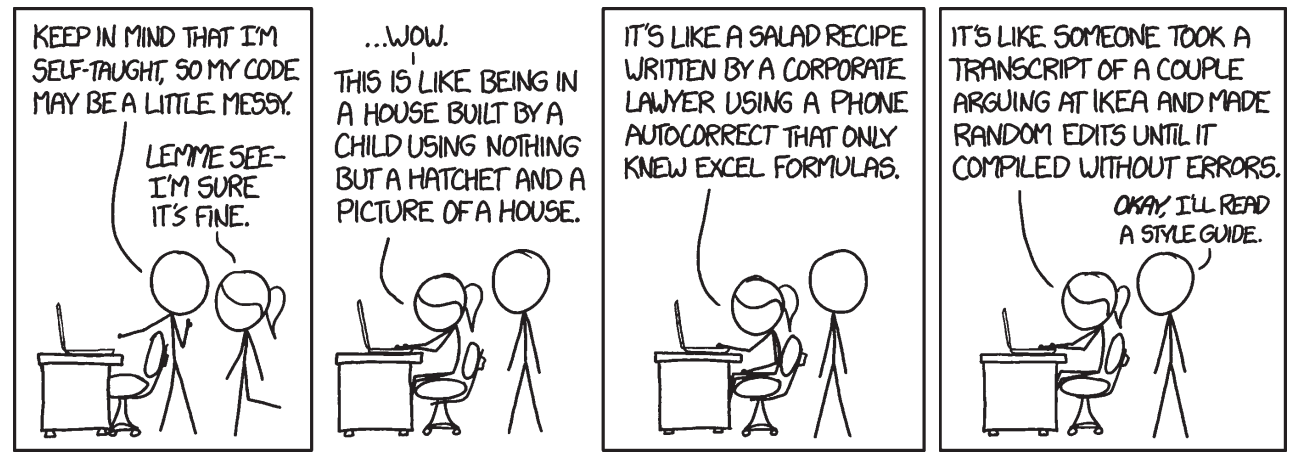
Solution, page 8

ACROSS
1 Voting group
5 Bugs' cowboy foe
8 Wear down
14 Bank seizure
15 Hosp. feeders
16 Dinnertime exhortation from 40 Across
17 Home's hot spot
18 Dudes
19 Sends forth
20 Rotating power generator
23 Responded to 16 Across
24 Nocturnal predator
25 Long reptiles
27 CIO partner
30 Awkward type
32 Podium delivery
36 In __ of (replacing)
38 Numerical suffix
40 Milan mother
41 Source of power from inside the earth
44 Golf great's nickname
45 Baltic State capital
46 Send forth
47 Ophthalmologist's field
49 Goof up
51 For instance
52 British superstar singer
54 Wide divergence
56 Texter's "I've heard enough!"
59 Photovoltaic power
64 Kingsley Oscar role
66 Emergency signal
67 Supposed "superfood"
68 "No worries"
69 Pothook shape
70 School on the Thames
71 Sumptuous meals
72 Sodium hydroxide solution
73 Does some hemming

DOWN
1 Facial ridge
2 First name in jeans
3 Amenable
4 Beachfront rental, perhaps
5 Make a pretense of
6 Declare true
7 Morning Joe airer
8 Key related to C
9 Mountaineer's starting point
10 15 Across monitors
11 What un río is made of
12 Nutritionist's plan
13 Cut back on the intensity
21 Not very many
22 When coins became common
26 Humdrum, as humor
27 Fish-tank buildup
28 Zealous
29 Sierra __ (Liberia neighbor)
31 Star of Elf and Anchorman
33 Muslim leaders
34 Everything: Lat.
35 Well-dressed
37 Central New York city
39 Former UK record giant
42 Common Facebook profile picture
43 Generous bestowal
48 Adds more lubricant
50 Dashed off
53 Three-legged device
55 Longhaired toy dogs
56 Pre-weekend whoop
57 Auntie of musicals
58 Ancient Andean
60 Promising
61 Per-hour fee
62 Soft shine
63 Cravings
65 Tijuana 21 Down



[1513] Code Quality



xkcd
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe

I honestly didn't think you could even USE emoji in variable names. Or that there were so many different crying ones.

FUNFUNFUNF

SPORTSSPORTSSPORTS

SPORTS BLITZ

Women's Track and Field (No. 2) won 12 events, defeating Bates and Colby Sat. Jan 13 in a tri-meet at Bates College. The Engineers earned 106 points, Bates 53.5, and Colby 28.5. Marissa McPhillips '20 won the mile with a time of 5:07.41, which was converted to 5:04.40 and is ranked fifth in the country. Jacqueline Ahrens '21 cleared 11 feet, 11.75 inches pole vaulting, putting her at the No. 2 mark in the country.

Men's Track and Field (No. 8) defeated Bates and Colby Sat. Jan 13 in a tri-meet at Bates College. The Engineers won 100 points, Bates 62, Colby 19. William Ruschel '18 won the triple jump with a jump of 46 feet, two inches, a distance which ranks him No. 15 in the nation.

Women's Swimming and Diving (No. 8, 4–2) was victorious over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (3–5) 180 to 102 at a home meet Sat. Jan 13. MIT won 12 of the 16 events, and garnered the top three spots in four events. Four MIT divers had NCAA qualifying scores on the 1-meter board.

Men's Swimming and Diving (No. 4, 5–1) defeated the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (No. 22, 4–2) 189 to 103 at a home meet Sat. Jan 13. MIT won 12 of 16 events.

Women's Basketball (10–5, 6–2 NEWMAC) topped WPI 66–55 in an overtime game in Cambridge Sat. Jan 13. Dolly Yuan '19 scored a game-high 20 points. Last Thursday, the Engineers defeated Wheaton College at an away game 56 to 30.

Men's Basketball (14–1, 4–0 NEWMAC) won 91 to 65 over Wheaton College during an away game Sat. Jan 13. Hamilton Forsythe '21 scored 26 points and Bradley Jomard '19 scored 22. Last Wednesday, MIT defeated Emerson College 83–69 in Cambridge. The team has won its last 11 games.

Men's Squash (No. 22) had a 6–3 win over Wesleyan University in an away match on Fri. Jan. 12. MIT won 3–0 in five of the six sets. This was the Engineers' 10th victory of the season, making it the fourth-straight season of double-digit wins.

ROBERT KRAWITZ

MIT guard Taylor V'Dovec '19 helps lead the Engineers to victory over WPI Jan. 13.

101 THINGS TO DO
BEFORE YOU GRADUATE
32. Take a stroll through Little Italy in the North End
Join the Arts department at The Tech and write restaurant reviews.
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Solution to Earth

from page 7

2	4	7	8	6	5	3	9	1
9	1	3	7	2	4	8	6	5
8	5	6	3	9	1	2	4	7
6	9	5	2	8	3	7	1	4
4	3	8	1	5	7	6	2	9
1	7	2	6	4	9	5	8	3
3	2	4	9	7	6	1	5	8
7	6	9	5	1	8	4	3	2
5	8	1	4	3	2	9	7	6

Solution to Luna

from page 7

5	4	1	2	6	3
4	3	6	1	5	2
3	2	5	6	4	1
2	1	4	5	3	6
6	5	2	3	1	4
1	6	3	4	2	5

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

B	L	O	C	■	S	A	M	■	A	B	R	A	D	E
R	E	P	O	■	I	V	S	■	M	A	N	G	I	A
O	V	E	N	■	M	E	N	■	I	S	S	U	E	S
W	I	N	D	T	U	R	B	I	N	E	■	A	T	E
■	■	■	O	W	L	■	C	R	O	C	S	■	■	■
A	F	L	■	O	A	F	■	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
L	I	E	U	■	T	E	E	N	■	M	A	M	M	A
G	E	O	T	H	E	R	M	A	L	P	L	A	N	T
A	R	N	I	E	■	R	I	G	A	■	E	M	I	T
E	Y	E	C	A	R	E	■	E	R	R	■	S	A	Y
■	■	■	A	D	E	L	E	■	G	A	P	■	■	■
T	M	I	■	S	O	L	A	R	E	N	E	R	G	Y
G	A	N	D	H	I	■	S	O	S	■	K	A	L	E
I	M	C	O	O	L	■	E	S	S	■	E	T	O	N
F	E	A	S	T	S	■	L	Y	E	■	S	E	W	S

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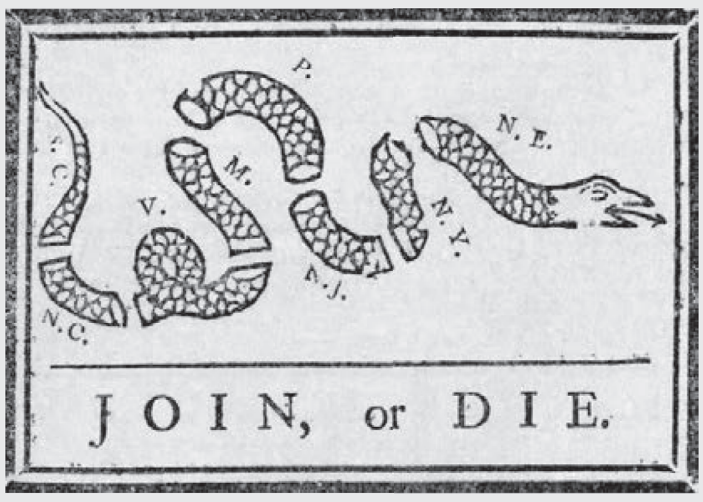

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